



#### What Changes with the Implementation of Bill C-49 and How Might it Impact Producers

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## Why?

# "The first step in solving a problem is recognizing there is one"

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## Background

- Transportation has been a public policy matter from the earliest days of Confederation
  - o Began with canals and railways
  - Expanded as technology fostered new modes of transport
    - × Road, air and pipelines
- Activity overseen through government regulation
  - o Government charters and licensing (federal and provincial)

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- Rooted in common-carrier obligations
  - Focused on rates and service standards





## **Grain Transportation in Canada**

- Heavy government involvement in rail movement
  - Crowsnest Pass freight rates (1897)
  - Inflation steadily eroded grain's profitability
- Slow to respond to changing circumstances
- Crisis of the 1970s led to sweeping reforms
  - o US Staggers Act (1980)
  - Canada National Transportation Act (1987)
- Railways were refusing to invest in grain-related plant and equipment (circa 1960)
  - Led to government assistance: public hopper-car fleet; branchline rehabilitation
  - Rate reform: Western Grain Transportation Act (1983)
    - Gradual increase in "Crow Rate" and direct government subsidies

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Eliminated with a one-time payout to farmers (mid 1990s)



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So What is Driving the most recent Legislative Change?





## Issues

Availability of Railway Capacity
 Grow the pie – don't split it differently

- Railway service: Consistency, Timeliness and Resilience
   The need for reliable and consistent service
- Access to broader markets

An economic means to reach untapped US markets

- An approach to measuring Railway performance (Data)
   Only the Grain industry has it
- The replacement of the Federal Gov't hopper car fleet





#### Western Port Volumes





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Source: CN weekly supply reports; ATC Weekly Reports







# What was Bill C-49?

- The Transportation Modernization Act
  - An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act and other Acts respecting transportation and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts
  - Covers both Rail and Air legislation
- Impact on Grain industry
  - Rail Service Issues
  - Railway investment
  - Transparency (data)

#### **Reciprocal Accountability**



- Presently there is little or no accountability for railways to perform
- Service Agreements between Shippers and the Railways with penalties for non performance
  - Includes service standards

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 Mediation processes in development



#### **Railway Investment**

#### Modify the MRE

- Split the VRCPI to two railways (rather than blended)
- Allow greater advantage for depreciating/ including cost of new cars
- Removes risk of complacency - Increases incentive to invest
- In place for 2018-19 Crop year



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#### Long Haul Interswitching (LHI)

- Extended Interswitching was introduced as part of the "Fair Rail for Farmers" Act in 2014.
- As emergency legislation, required to be renewed after 2 years, and was extended to August of 2017.
- LHI was the replacement

- Allows, under tighter conditions, for a shipper to apply for rate from the CTA for the movement of traffic to a second carrier
- Dependent on the failure to reach an agreement with the serving carrier and subsequent approval from the CTA
- Approval processes still in development



#### Data Transparency



- Reporting in line with STB approach
  - Published weekly on TC website
  - Includes basic volume and performance stats
  - To be refined over the next 18 months
- Waybill data reporting for the CTA to use in developing LHI rate structures

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What does this mean for Producers?

- Increased Rail Capacity ?
- Greater reliability in Rail Service ?
- More competition between Grain Companies?
- Greater confidence in Canada as a supplier of grain products ?





#### Grain Companies position in the Market

- Grain companies generally do not market grain based on global market demand but on what rail capacity they think they can obtain.
- By extension, the competition for producers grain is impacted by what cars their local elevator is allocated by the railway that serves them.
- Will the advent of greater accountability on the railways increase rail capacity, and consequently greater competition between grain companies for producers grain?





#### Canadian Grain Logistics in the Global Market



- United States: 350 600 miles (Rail 60%+, Truck –Barge)
- Canada: 790 1,150 miles (Rail 95%, Truck 5%)

#### Agriculture dependency on Exports (% of Crop Exported)

Other Issues

export

- Brazil: 39% (74 M of 187 M)
- Australia: 23% (17 M of 74 M)
- United States: 16% (82 M of 500 M)
- Canada: 55% (52 M of 95 M)
- Covers all field crops exported against total grains production)

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- Distance to market (ocean)
- Relative market position (size)

#### Impact of New Hopper Cars and Operating Plan

#### New car fleet will provide higher loading capacity

- Shorter cars 57 ft vs 60 ft (more cars/ train)
- o 3 hopper vs 4 (less maintenance)
- Centre sill vs box sill (greater stability)
- o 5,300 cu ft vs 4,750 cu ft
- o 100 T per car vs 90 T
- New operating scenario sees CP moving to a 8,500 ft train (from 7,000); CN to 134 – 180 cars
- Loop track design in country for 134 to 150 cars
- G3 Terminal is designed for 150 cars



## System Improvements/ Changes

- Prince Rupert Indexer replacement
- AGT Gallery and loader replacement
- G3 startup
  - Access to North Shore
  - Capacity through the tunnel
- P&H/ Grains Connect terminal at FSD
- Increase in country primary elevator capacity and facilities

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Churchill line and terminal purchase



#### Key Observations from the GMP

- 2018-19 Second highest grain supply ever at 81.2 MMT
  2017-18 now the third highest at 80.5 MMT
- Despite that, 17-18 volumes were down from previous year:
  - o Elevator throughput down 3.2%
  - o Rail movements down 4.2%
  - Shipments down 6.2%
- Rail Performance fell:
  - Car cycles and loaded transit has increased 14.7% & 18.7%
  - Most predominant component is origin dwell increased 116.5%
  - Order fulfillment rates have fallen
- Vessel time in port increased 4.7%
- Stock in country have held at over 4 MMT, highest ever

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#### **Railway Capacity**

#### • Rail performance:

- Increased car cycles/ dwell times/ reduces capacity
- Reduced capacity impacts order fulfillment potential
- Constricted rail volume impact vessel time in port
- Railways are addressing issues:
  - Increased running trades hiring
  - Purchase of locomotives
  - Capital programs increasing track capacity
- Competition with other commodities by corridor

Fleet requirement for 5,500 cars/ week (based on variable car cycle)

Cycle Time	Required Fleet
18.00	14,709
16.00	13,074
14.00	11,440
Present Fleet	
CN	12,100
CP	11,400

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#### **Other Issues**

Loading in the rain (Vancouver)
 ILWU contract negotiations

Impact of pilotage review on Seaway movements

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- CP elimination of 56 car rate
  - Part of CP's 8,500 foot train strategy
  - May give allowances to certain shippers
  - Approximately 12% originates from 56 car loaders
  - Impacts 34 facilities





# Shipments from Canada





#### Weather

- The number of days temperature levels fell below -25 C (Railway Level 1 Winter operations) was at or near average with the exception of February
- Levels in 2017-18 were far less drastic than those seen in 2013-14



### Summary

- Too soon to tell if the C-49 amendments will make a difference.
  - Processes have yet to be defined
  - Will be followed with legal challenges setting precedents for future use
- Impact on producers is not clear
  - Dependent on how the competitive marketplace evolves
- The greater impact for producers will likely be the expansion of the country network by both existing grain companies and new entrants.

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